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together. When it seems to stand fairly solidly, the good teacher sets to work to fill it in. In doing this he must usually rely on material drawn from the reading, and when a lesson book makes a real contribution to the undertaking he is grateful.

The other type of grammar, a manual for advanced students, and teachers who still study, is arranged logically, systematically, and contains thorough going discussions of the topics under the various grammatical categories, with ample attention to the inconsistency of usage. It gives proper place to considerations arising from the philosophy of syntax, and on controverted points indicates current opinion without being drawn into a polemic. It contains abundant examples and a rich store of idiomatic expressions. If intended as a lesson book, it provides copious exercises, in which this idiomatic material and the difficulties of syntax are often reworked through oral and written composition.

It cannot be said that Living French conforms to either of these types, but a review that regards the volume almost exclusively from the pedagogical point of view, does not cover the ground. For that it would be necessary also to consider it in detail as a contribution to the study of modern French grammar, and to point out in it more than one instance of the competent knowledge of the French language displayed by the author. This, after all, is its peculiar and unusual merit. Whatever reservations are to be made in regard to the use of the book in the classroom, it may be recommended to all students of the language as doing for many of the usual phases of French grammar what Armstrong's Syntax has done for the French verb.

A. COLEMAN.

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Gustav Adolfs Page von Conrad Ferdinand Meyer. Edited with Introduction, Notes and Vocabulary by Robert Bruce Roulston. New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1917. xxviii + 160. 45 cents.

Professor Roulston has given us a good edition of *Gustav Adolfs Page*. Judicious care has been exercised in preparing the introduction, notes and vocabulary, and thus abundant material is provided for profitable study of a fine bit of historical fiction. Some of Meyer's writings are peculiarly suited to use in the classroom. There is hardly a trivial or insipid line in Meyer's productions and through repeated perusals one comes to appreciate more and more the fine polish that has been wrought at the expense of great care, and occasional impressions of rigidity and artificiality obtained on first acquaintance are diminished. Meyer has more of Gottfried Keller's superb humor and realism, his world is that of far-off history, and even this is turned to suit his fancy, but he does always present a picture of some great event or character that richly repays one's attention, so that one lays his stories aside with the feeling of having been refreshed and strengthened, if not exalted. Meyer was a noble man of earnest, ardent, honest, artistic aspirations and a breath of his spirit inevitably pervades his work.

Closing scenes enacted in the life of the great Swedish king, Gustavus Adolphus, taking place during the Thirty Years' War pass before us in this short story, and the representation of Gustavus's page, Leubelfing, as a daring young girl in disguise, though a pure fiction, lends a bit of romantic charm. It is somewhat difficult at first to accept this motif as natural, but after one has become accustomed to the idea, other events move along consistently, and interest grows tenser as one draws near the fine conclusion.

Professor Roulston has made a valuable contribution to the study of Meyer in furnishing the notes with liberal illustrations of important characteristics of Meyer's technique and style by means of parallel citations drawn from all of Meyer's works. This is a new feature and is indicative of far more conscientious preparatory study than editors of modern texts are usually able to demonstrate. To give one example: in a note on line 12 of page 6 citations illustrate Meyer's method of symbolizing an act or mental state or even a character by means of some plastic representation.

The record of words coined by Meyer, likewise that of his favorite and peculiar vocables and expressions, will prove useful to philologists in the compilation of lexicographical, grammatical and literary work.

The reviewer thinks that it would have been better to give the modern German equivalent of all foreign words listed in the vocabulary. A map of Germany indicating the locality of Gustavus's military operations might have been useful in the historical sketch of the introduction. References in the notes to the introduction without indicating the number of the page are not always satisfactory.

There are only a few expressions in the introduction that seem infelicitous, e.g., 'the young Conrad' (p. v, ll. 18-19), 'the young Meyer' (p. vi, l. 23), 'the father' (p. v, l. 19), 'the son's artist eye' (p. v, l. 13) are suggestive of German rather than of English usage. But this is a trivial matter indeed. The fact is that Professor Roulston has contributed a good piece of work that will be particularly welcome in the colleges of the Anglo-Saxon world.

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German Science Reader, by Frederick W. Scholz. New York,

The Macmillan Co., 1917. 12 mo., ix + 462 pp. \$1.10.

The older type of German science reader usually presented a collection of disconnected extracts so simple in style and vocabulary and so antiquated in their scientific views, that they were of no real value to the serious student of the sciences. Recent German science readers have sought to overcome these defects by offering articles taken from standard German scientific works and describing the latest researches in the various fields. Indeed, at times, editors have gone to the other extreme and have presented articles so technical and so limited in scope as to interest only a particular group of students, as, for example, engineering students. A happy compromise was made by Kip in 1916, whose *Scientific German Reader*¹ contains chapters on eight principal

¹A *Scientific German Reader* by Herbert Z. Kip. Oxford University Press, 1916.